

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-01 SR-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 L-02 PRS-01 SCA-01 VO-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 FBIE-00 SY-04 INSE-00 ABF-01

INRE-00 /060 W

----- 081751

O R 071630Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0761

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0161

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, CG

SUBJ: ASSISTANCE TO A UGANDAN REFUGEE

REF: CA 6610, 20 AUG 74

1. JOHN BART AGAMI, A UGANDAN POLITICAL REFUGEE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEE OF THE EMBASSY IS IN DIRE NEED OF ASSISTANCE TO LEAVE ZAIRE TO FIND POLITICAL ASYLUM IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. MR. AGAMI IS CHIEF OF THE LOGBARA TRIBE IN UGANDA AND IS A FORMER COLONEL IN THE UGANDA ARMY AS WELL AS ONE-TIME ECONOMIC COUNSELOR TO PRESIDENT AMIN. DUE TO HIS ESTRANGEMENT FROM AMIN AND HIS OWN POSITION AS A TRIBAL AND POLITICAL LEADER, HE WAS FORCED TO FLEE UGANDA ON FOOT LAST MAY JUST AHEAD OF AMIN'S TROOPS. (DEPT SEE MEMCON ON AGAMI DTD 6 DEC 75).

2. ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO AGAMI RECEIVED A WARNING FROM HIS FOLLOWERS IN UGANDA THROUGH A ZAIRIAN LOGBARA MONSIGNOR THAT AMIN WAS VERY MUCH AWARE OF HIS PRESENCE IN KINSHASA AND THAT UNLESS HE
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DEPARTED KINSHASA FORTHWITH HIS LIFE WOULD BE

ENDANGERED. ADDITIONALLY THEY FELT THAT THE SITUATION HAD SO DETERIORATED IN UGANDA THAT LARGE SCALE FIGHTING BETWEEN AMIN'S SUPPORTERS AND HIS ENEMIES WILL SHORTLY BREAK OUT AND THAT SINCE AGAMI IS CONSIDERED BY MANY LOGBARA TO BE THE LOGICAL SUCCESSOR TO THE PRESIDENT, AMIN IS ALL THE MORE INTENT ON TAKING PREEMPTIVE ACTION AGAINST AGAMI.

3. ON NEW YEAR'S DAY AN INCIDENT OCCURED AT AGAMI'S RESIDENCE IN WHICH AN AS YET UNIDENTIFIED MAN ATTEMPTED TO "ARREST" AGAMI IN THE NAME OF THE "PRESIDENCY" (PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S OWN RATHER SIZEABLE BUREAUCRACY). THE ATTEMPT WAS FOILED BY A ZAIRIAN FELLOW TRIBESMAN WHO INCIDENTALLY IS A ZAIRIAN NCO WORKING IN THE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION OF THE PRESIDENCY. SINCE AGAMI BELIEVES THE INTRUDER WAS AN UGANDAN SENT TO DO HIM IN AND NOT A ZAIRIAN, A REPORT OF THE INCIDENT WAS MADE TO THE LOCAL GENDARME POST. HOWEVER, AGAMI THOUGHT IT PRUDENT THAT HE LEAVE HIS HOUSE IMMEDIATELY. HE HAS INCE BEEN ON THE MOVE SPENDING NIGHTS WITH FRIENDS, THE COMMERCIAL ATTACHE AND THE ECON COUNSELOR.

4. THE SITUATION WAS COMPLICATED OVER THE WEEKEND BY THE ARRIVAL IN KINSHASA OF AGAMI'S WIFE AND TWO YOUNGER CHILDREN. AGAMI HAD BEEN TRYING TO EXTRICATE THEM FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS AND HAD ABOUT GIVEN UP FOR THE TIME BEING. HOWEVER, A ZAIRIAN LOGBARA MANAGED TO HELP PULL IT OFF DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. THE FACT THAT MRS. AGAMI IS AMIN'S NIECE (AND ERSTWHILE CONFIDANT) ADDS URGENCY TO THEIR EARLY EVACUATION.

5. AGAMI HAS BEEN IN ZAIRE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNHCR OFFICE AND AFTER RECEIVING THE AFOREMENTIONED WARNING HAD BEGUN MAKING PLANS THROUGH THE UNHCR OFFICE TO FIND AN ALTERNATE ASYLUM. THE COMMISSIONER, MR. KALBERER, AGREES THAT THE LOCAL SITUATION IS CRITICAL AND IS EXPEDITING HIS EFFORTS TO EVACUATE

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AGAMI AND FAMILY. HOWEVER, THE DIFFICULTY OF NEGOTIATING WITH AN ASYLUM COUNTRY MAY YET DELAY THE EVACUATION BY SEVERAL WEEKS.

6. EMB UNDERSTANDS THAT UNHCR CAN GET TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR FAMILY. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS THAT UNLESS THE LOCAL UNHCR IS ABLE TO EVACUATE AGAMI AND FAMILY WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, EMERGENCY TRAVEL FUNDS BE AUTHORIZED TO GET THEM FROM

ZAIRE TO THE US.

7. THE GOZ IS, OF COURSE, COGNIZANT OF AGAMI'S REFUGEE STATUS AND HAS GIVEN HIM PERMISSION TO STAY ON A MONTH BY MONTH BASIS WITH THE PROVISIO THAT HE MAKE NO CONTACT WITH ZAIRIAN LOGBARA MILITARY OFFICERS. HOWEVER WITH THE INCREASED THREATS TO HIS SAFETY, ZAIRIAN LOGBARA OFFICIALS AS WELL AS MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY INVOLVED WITH HIS WELFARE AND PROTECTION - A SITUATION THE GOZ IS LIKELY TO FIND INCREASINGLY INTOLERABLE. SINCE AGAMI IS A USG EMPLOYEE AND HAS BEEN RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM EMBASSY OFFICERS, A USG/GOZ MISUNDERSTANDING OVER HIM COULD ARISE. LOGBARA OFFICIALS OF THE GOZ ASSERT THAT AMIN HAS ASKED MOBUTU FOR AGAMI AND THAT SO FAR MOBUTU HAS TURNED HIM DOWN. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE SERIOUS OVERLAPPING TRIBAL PROBLEM, THEY ARE VERY UNEASY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AMIN BEING ABLE TO OFFER MOBUTU AN ATTRACTIVE DEAL IN RETURN FOR AGAMI. EVEN WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS ON THE PART OF THE GOZ, AGAMI WOULD STILL BE VERY VULNERABLE TO AMIN'S HENCHMEN. EMBASSY THEREFORE CONCLUDES THAT TURNING THE PROBLEM OVER TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT IS NOT A VIABLE SOLUTION IN THIS CASE. WE ALSO CONCLUDE THAT UNHCR EVACUATION MECHANISM WILL BE TOO SLOW.

8. RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE DEPT URGENTLY CONSIDER PAROLING AGAMI AND FAMILY INTO US IN ACCORDANCE SECTION 212(D) OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT AND THAT EMERGENCY FUNDS (REF CA) BE USED TO EVACUATE THEM.

9. ADDITIONAL BIO INFO. AGAMI IS ALLEGEDLY GRADUATE OF SANDHURST
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(A CLASSMATE OF GENERAL GOWAN'S) AND REPORTEDLY HAS A BA FROM OXFORD, AN MA IN CANON LAW FROM THE GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY AT THE VATICAN AND A PH.D. IN ECONOMICS FROM THE SORBONNE. HE IS CATHOLIC AND IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND SWAHILI WITH A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN. HE HAS WORKED AS A COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT AT THE EMBASSY FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS AND HAS PROVED TO BE AN EXCEPTIONALLY CONCIENTIOUS AND ABLE EMPLOYEE.
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